

**CLAIMS:** The following is a listing of all claims in the application with their status and text for all active claims. All deletions have been highlighted in yellow and have a strike-through. All amendments are enclosed in brackets and printed in italics.

I Claim:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An article of furniture (*comprising*) a stepped stool, with seat and footrest specifically designed to assist (*seniors and other*) persons (*with mobility problems in the knees, legs or back*) in the act of putting on and taking off their shoes and socks.

2. (ORIGINAL) The said stepped stool as set forth in claim 1 consisting of a pair of side frames, both a right hand one and a left hand one, supporting said seat and said footrest and having the necessary crosses braces to ensure said stepped stool its strength and stability.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The said stepped stool as set forth in claim 1 where said seat and said footrest are positioned such that their vertical dimensions from the base of said side frames shall be such to emulate the dimensions of the vertical rise of two steps of a normal staircase ~~as defined in the residential building codes~~ (*found in the average multistory residential building*).

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The said stepped stool as set forth in claim 1 where ~~width~~ (*depth*) of said footrest is to emulate that of a normal stair tread and said seat is to emulate the ~~width~~ (*depth*) of two (*normal*) said stair threads ~~as defined in said residential building codes~~ (*found in said normal staircase in said average multistory residential building*).

5. (ORIGINAL) The said stepped stool as set forth in claim 1 wherein said footrest and said seat may have rounded edges or may be padded for comfort using typical upholstery materials and techniques.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The said stepped stool as set forth in claim 1 wherein said side frames, said seat, said footrest and said braces may be made of ~~wood, both hard or soft, plastic or any metal~~ or any other substance which would provide the necessary strength and stability to support any person of above average weight.

7. (ORIGINAL) The said stepped stool as set forth in claim 1 whereas it may be manufactured using screws, bolts, Tee nuts and Cross bolts in such a manner to allow said stepped stool to be supplied to the consumer in an unassembled condition for ease of packing and shipping.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED AND RE-PRESENTED) The said stepped as set forth in claim 1 whereas it shall be manufactured in such a manner to allow said step stool to be supplied to the consumer in an unassembled condition for ease of packing and shipping (*and be easily assembled by said consumer using supplied common fasteners*) ~~using screws, bolts, Tee nuts and Cross bolts~~ *(to ensure its strength and rigidity.)*

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The said side frames as set forth in claim 2 where the said side frames may be constructed in such a manner to allow said footrest and said seat to be adjusted in a vertical manner ~~to exceed the normal vertical riser spacing of said normal staircase as defined in said residential building codes.~~

9. (ORIGINAL) The said side frames as set forth in claim 2 wherein the said side frames are manufactured to include arm rests which are attached to said frames and extend to a comfortable height above said seat and provide a stable holding surface which the occupant of said stepped stool may use to assist them in sitting and rising from said stepped stool.

10. (CANCEL) An adjustable stepped stool specifically designed to assist persons in the act of putting on and taking off their shoes and socks which is constructed using telescoping legs attached to a footrest and to a seat.

**11. (CANCEL)** The said adjustable stepped stool as set forth in claim **10** wherein said telescoping legs are made of metal and adjusted and supported using a plurality of holes in each leg and internal locking pins.

**12. (CANCEL)** The said adjustable stepped stool as set forth in claim **10** wherein said footrest and said seat are constructed of wood, plastic or metal and may be padded for comfort.

**13. (NEW)** A stepped stool with a seat and footrest specifically designed to assist seniors and other persons with limited mobility in their knees, back or legs in the act of putting on and taking off their shoes and socks where the heights and depths of said seat and said footrest emulate that of a single stair in a normal staircase rising to a landing in an average multistoried residential house.